What is claimed:

1. A method of inhibiting Fas-protein regulated apoptosis in a cell comprising administering to the cell a short interfereing RNA (siRNA) which modulates Fas-protein encoding gene expression, thereby inhibiting apoptosis in the cell.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a kidney cell.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said kidney cell is a tubular cell.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said cell is a cardiac cell.

5. A method of treating or preventing ischemia-reperfusion injury in a subject comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of an RNA interfering agent which inhibits Fas-protein encoding gene expression such that ischemia-reperfusion injury is treated or prevented.

6. The method of claim 1 or 5, wherein said RNA interfering agent is a double-stranded, short interfering RNA (siRNA).

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said siRNA is about 15 nucleotides to about 28 nucleotides in length.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said siRNA is about 19 nucleotides to about 25 nucleotides in length.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said siRNA is about 21 nucleotides in length.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein said siRNA is double stranded and contains a 3' overhang on each strand.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said overhang comprises about 1 to about 6 nucleotides on each strand.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said overhang comprises about 2 nucleotides on each strand.

13. The method of claim 6, wherein said first strand comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:13 and said second strand comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:14.

14. The method of claim 5, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. The method of claim 5, wherein ischemia-reperfusion injury affects any of the organs selected from the group consisting of kidney, heart, brain, liver, gut and lung.

16. The method of claim 5, wherein said subject is a human.

17. The method of claim 5, wherein said siRNA is administered intravenously.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said siRNA is administered by repeated intravenous injection.

19. A method of preventing ischemia reperfusion injury in an organ in an individual at risk of ischemia reperfusion injury comprising administering to a blood vessel of the organ one or more siRNAs targeting human Fas protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the one or more siRNAs targeting human Fas protein inhibits Fas-protein expression in cells of the organ thereby inhibiting Fas-protein mediated apoptosis in the organ and preventing ischemia reperfusion injury in the organ.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the sequence of one or more siRNAs targeting human Fas protein comprises a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17 and SEQ ID NO: 18.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the organ is kidney.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the individual in need of is an organ transplant donor or organ transplant recipient.

23. A method of inhibiting Fas-protein mediated apoptosis in an organ in an individual in need thereof comprising administering to a blood vessel of an organ one or more siRNAs comprising a nucleic acid sequence targeting a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17 and SEQ ID NO: 18 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the siRNA inhibits Fas-protein expression in cells of the organ thereby inhibiting Fas-protein mediated apoptosis in the organ.

24. The claim of 23, wherein the organ is kidney.

25. The claim of claim 23, wherein the individual in need of is either organ donor or organ recipient.